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10/630,141

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John J. Giobbi

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT

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3714

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/630,141	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GIOBBI, JOHN J.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jasson H. Yoo	<b>Art Unit</b> 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 101-104 and 106-125 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 101-104 and 106-125 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 101-104, 106-125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedrick et al. (US 6,908,387) in view of Rantze (US 6,536,658) as supported by Sizer et al. (US 5,923,252).

101, 102, 111-112, 116, 120-122. Hedrick discloses a method of operating a gaming terminal by establishing a wireless transmission link with a portable data unit carried by an individual (cols. 5:56-6:6, 10:45-56, 17:44-18:2). The portable data unit transfers player tracking information to the gaming machine. Thus the portable data unit must store player information in order to transfer the player tracking information to the gaming machine (col. 17:44-51.). The player tracking information is used during a player tracking session to associate player's game play with the player's account (col. 17:34-18:5). The gaming machine detects the portable data unit within a predetermined distance (cols. 10:57-11:25). Hedrick also discloses the gaming machine operates in an attract mode upon sensing a player in proximity of the gaming machine (col. 12:23-30). However, Hedrick fails to teach the attract mode occurs in response to detecting a portable data unit carried by a user within a first predetermined distance or time, and a

Art Unit: 3714

play mode occurs in response to detecting a portable data unit carried by a user within a second predetermined distance or time, wherein the first distance or time is different than the second predetermined distance or time. Nevertheless, the method of operating a device in different modes is well known in the art. In an analogous art to automatically detecting users to operate a device, Rantze discloses a method of changing operation modes depending on the actual distance of a user and movement of the user (abstract, cols. 2-4, 11:38-53). More specifically, Rantze discloses a method of operating retail terminal such as a kiosk. When a person is at a predetermined distance, the kiosk would operate in an attract mode by playing a sound clip (col. 2:41-45). As the user approaches the kiosk, the information on the screen changes (col. 2:46-48). Rantze's method of operating the kiosk at different modes based on different distances allows the apparatus to operate more effectively by accommodating the user. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time invention was made to modify Hedrick's method of operating a gaming terminal by establishing a wireless transmission link with a portable data unit and incorporate Rantze's method of operating a device differently based on the user's distance in order to operate the gaming device more effectively based on the user's location.

It is noted that Hedrick's detection method involves a portable device unit (as claimed) whereas Rantze's detection method involves a transmitter to transmit waveforms of different frequencies that reflect from objects around the operating device. However the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference. Rather, the test

Art Unit: 3714

is what the combined teaching of those references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Keller*. See MPEP 2145 III *Arguing that prior art devices are not physically combinable*. In this case, as discussed above, Rantze reference is relied upon to teach the method of operating a device at different modes based on different distances. One of ordinary skilled in the art would know how to modify's Hedrick's detection system and incorporate Rantze's method of operating a device at different modes based on different distance accordingly. Furthermore, Hedrick's system and Rantze's system are both directed to a detection system to operate a device. One of ordinary skilled in the art would know that the specific type of detection system (i.e. using a card, transmitter, etc.) can be substituted for another. This is also taught by Sizer. Sizer discloses a system where a device (audio and video device) is operated based on the detection of a person. More specifically Sizer discloses audio and video messages are provided to a person upon the detection of the person (see abstract). Different messages can be provided depending upon the location of the person (col. 17:1627). Sizer discloses different type of detection means can come in many form (i.e. pad position at predetermined location, user characteristic detection means, smart cards, RF cards, cols. 3:57-67, 6:4-17).

Hedrick in view of Rantze further discloses the following:

103, 114. Receiving a wager from the passer by (Hedrick, cols. 17:44-18:19).

104. Operating the gaming machine in a first mode includes inviting the passerby to play the gaming machine (attract mode as discussed above).

106, 123. Inviting the passerby, based on the identity of the passerby, to play the gaming machine (Hedrick, col. 12:23-30, 12-36-59, 17:36-18:19).

107, 117. Operating the gaming machine in a first mode includes inviting the passerby based on the identity of the passerby, to play the gaming machine (see rejection for claims 102 and 106 above).

108, 113. Encrypting data communicated across the wireless communication link into ciphered data (col. 15:34-38).

109, 115. Operating the gaming machine in a first mode includes attracting the passerby to interact with the gaming machine (As discussed above in claim 102, Hedrick discloses an attract mode. This attract mode may cause the player to interact with the gaming machine.).

110, 118, 124. Attracting the passerby includes the gaming machine conveying a message to the passerby (Hedrick discloses a message in lights or sound to convey the message that the gaming machine wants attention to the player, col. 12:27-30).

119, 125. Hedrick in view of Rantze discloses the method of method of operating a gaming terminal by establishing a wireless transmission link with a portable data unit but fails to specifically teach modifying the operating of the gaming machine according the play mode includes disregarding individuals with a portable data unit who pass by the gaming machine at greater than for at least one of the second predetermined distance or disregarding individual who pass by the gaming machine for less than second predetermined period of time. Nevertheless, such limitations would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art. Hedrick in view of Rantze discloses a method of operating a gaming terminal in which operations modes are changed according the distance of the user. The operations modes are changed because the gaming terminal performs one mode at a time. When the gaming terminal is in play mode, the gaming terminal is occupied by the player. Switching the mode while a player is in play mode with the gaming terminal will disrupt the player's game. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hedrick in view of Rantze's method of method of operating a gaming terminal and disregard individuals with a portable data unit who pass by the gaming machine in order to not disrupt the game that's in play.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 1/16/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

**A.** Regarding claims 101-104, 106-105, Applicant argues that it is not obvious to combine Hedrick in view of Rantze as supported by Sizer since Rantze and Sizer are drawn from unrelated retail merchandizing fields. In response to applicant's argument that Rantze and Sizer are nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Applicant's invention is directed to a gaming machine that operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. A gaming machine is device that provides service to a person. Similarly, Rantze's and Sizer's invention is directed a service providing systems (retail terminal, such as kiosk, see abstract). Applicant's field of endeavor is directed to a device that operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. This is analogous to Rantze's and Sizer's field of endeavor where a device operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. In addition, Hedrick and Rantze discloses attract modes to attract potential users (Hedrick, col. 11:63-67, Rantze, col. 2:44-45). Thus also Hedrick may specifically, be a gaming machine, it is also considered an electronic device for in the field of marketing. Furthermore, it is reasonable to combine Rantze's invention with Hedrick's invention in order to operate the gaming device more effectively based on the user's location.

**B.** Applicant additionally argues that Hedrick's detection method involves a portable device unit (as claimed) whereas Rantze's or Sizer's detection method involves



Art Unit: 3714

a transmitter to transmit waveforms of different frequencies that reflect from objects around the operating device. More specifically, Applicant argues the Rantze's or Sizer's is a passive mechanism that that does not exchange information. Thus there is no motivation to combine the references and one of ordinary skilled in the art would not combine the references. However the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference. Rather, the test is what the combined teaching of those references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. In this case, Rantze reference is relied upon to teach the method of operating a device at different modes based on different distances. One of ordinary skilled in the art would know how to modify's **Hedrick's detection system which explicitly teaches exchanging information** (cols. 5:56-6:6, 10:45-56, 17:44-18:2) and incorporate Rantze's method of operating a device at different modes based on different distance accordingly. Furthermore, Sizer explicitly teaches that Sizer explicitly teaches that smart cards, RF cards can be used (cols. 3:57-67, 6:4-17). Smart cards are known to transmit information. Additionally RF cards are passive, active, or semi-passive. Each type of RF cards can transmit information.

**1 and 2.** Applicant further argues one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Hedrick and Rantze/Sizer due to the differences between the services in Rantze and gaming machines in Hedrick. However the differences between the services in Rantze and Hedrick invention, are merely a difference in the field in which they are used. As discussed above, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to

Art Unit: 3714

the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. As discussed above, Applicant's invention is directed to a gaming machine that operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. A gaming machine is device that provides service to a person. Similarly, Rantze's and Sizer's invention is directed a service providing systems (retail terminal, such as kiosk, see abstract). Applicant's field of endeavor is directed to a device that operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. This is analogous to Rantze's and Sizer's field of endeavor where a device operates in different modes based on the detection of a person. In addition, Hedrick and Rantze discloses attract modes to attract potential users (Hedrick, col. 11:63-67, Rantze, col. 2:44-45). Thus also Hedrick may specifically, be a gaming machine, it is also considered an electronic device for in the field of marketing. Furthermore, it is reasonable to combine Rantze's invention with Hedrick's invention in order to operate the gaming device more effectively based on the user's location.

**C.** Applicant also argues that the combination of Hedrick, Rantze and Sizer fails to disclose the claim limitation of "changing the operation of the gaming terminal to a first mode associated with the individual or a second mode associated with the individual," since Rantze and Sizer relate to a generic marketing message and offering general information directed to all persons. However, this issue has been discussed in A and B above. More specifically, Hedrick discloses different modes (i.e. attract mode and play mode, cols. 11:63-67, and 17:34-18:5). The Rantze reference discloses changing operation on a terminal from a first mode to a second mode (i.e. attract mode

to displaying information on screen mode, Rantze, col. 2:41-48). Thus the combination of Hendrick in view of Rantze discloses the claimed limitation.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

/Peter D. Vo/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714